

September 18, 2023

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 23-76**

The purpose of this All County Letter is to provide information regarding the allocation methodology for the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Program.



KIM JOHNSON  
DIRECTOR

CALIFORNIA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
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GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR

September 18, 2023

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 23-76

TO: ALL COUNTY CHILD WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS  
ALL FOSTER CARE MANAGERS  
ALL CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGERS  
ALL TITLE IV-E AGREEMENT TRIBES  
ALL COUNTY BOARDS OF SUPERVISORS

SUBJECT: COMMERCIALLY SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN  
PROGRAM FISCAL YEAR 2023-24 ALLOCATION  
METHODOLOGY AND PROGRAM INFORMATION

REFERENCE: [PUBLIC LAW 113-183;](#)  
[SENATE BILL \(SB\) 855 \(CHAPTER 29, STATUTES OF 2014\);](#)  
[SB 794 \(CHAPTER 425, STATUTES OF 2015\);](#)  
[WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE SECTION \(WIC\) 16501.35;](#)  
[WIC SECTIONS 16524.6 - 16524.11;](#)  
[ALL COUNTY LETTER 16-08: IMPLEMENTATION FEDERAL](#)  
[PREVENTING SEX TRAFFICKING AND STRENGTHENING](#)  
[FAMILIES ACT;](#)  
[ALL COUNTY LETTER 16-85: STATEWIDE POLICIES AND](#)  
[PROCEDURES TO PREVENT CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING;](#)  
[ALL COUNTY LETTER 16-15: YOUTH WHO ARE MISSING](#)  
[FROM FOSTER CARE;](#)  
[ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I-14-19: RECOMMENDED](#)  
[PRACTICES FOR SERVING COMMERCIALLY SEXUALLY](#)  
[EXPLOITED CHILDREN MISSING FROM CARE;](#)  
[COUNTY FISCAL LETTER 16/17-73: CLAIMING INSTRUCTIONS](#)  
[FOR THE COMMERCIALLY SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN](#)  
[PROGRAM;](#)  
[COUNTY FISCAL LETTER 21/22-27: COUNTY WELFARE](#)  
[DEPARTMENT COUNTY EXPENSE CLAIM TIME STUDY AND](#)

CLAIMING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DECEMBER 2021  
QUARTER;  
COUNTY FISCAL LETTER 22/23-07: FISCAL YEAR 2022-23  
COMMERCIALLY SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN  
PROGRAM GENERAL FUND ALLOCATION

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to provide all county child welfare and probation agencies (hereafter referred to as “counties”) and Title IV-E Tribes the allocation methodology for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Program, including the federal preventing sex trafficking requirements under Title IV-E of the Federal Social Security Act. It should be noted that counties should ensure services are provided to meet the needs of American Indian/Alaskan Native youth that have experienced or are at risk of experiencing commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) and that the services provided are culturally relevant. Allocated funds should be proportionally earmarked to meet these needs. American Indian/Alaska Native women and girls go missing, and are trafficked, at disproportionately higher rates than others.<sup>1</sup> The CSEC Program Funds can be utilized to address this risk. Specifically, this ACL addresses the following:

- Historical context of the CSEC Program.
- Requirements for Opt-In Counties.
- FY 2023-24 CSEC Program allocation methodology.

**BACKGROUND**

To support counties in their efforts towards improving outcomes for minors who are at-risk or a victim of CSE, California enacted [Senate Bill 855 \(SB\) \(Chapter 29, Statutes of 2014\)](#). The SB 855 established the county optional CSEC Program described in [Welfare and Institutions Code \(WIC\) sections 16524.6 - 16524.11](#) and administered by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). Each year the CDSS consults with the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA), to determine the allocation methodology for the distribution of funds to counties that opt to participate in the state CSEC Program.

The FY 2023-24 Child Welfare Services funding for Title IV-E Tribes will be provided in the forthcoming allocation letters for the Tribal-State Title IV-E Agreements program General Fund allocations. Specifically, Tribes can utilize their CWS allocation for CSEC program related activities. Both counties and Title IV-E Tribes can obtain support in the implementation of their programming and use of the allocated funds by contacting the Child Trafficking Response Team at the CDSS by emailing [CSECProgram@dss.ca.gov](mailto:CSECProgram@dss.ca.gov). On September 29, 2014, the federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act ([Public Law 113-183](#)) was signed into law which amended Title IV-E of the

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<sup>1</sup> [Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls](#)

Social Security Act to require states to develop and implement policies and procedures related to youth for whom a state has placement, care, or supervision responsibility and who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing commercial sexual exploitation, or are runaway or missing children. This federal law was then codified into state law in 2015 via [SB 794](#), through [WIC section 16501.35](#), which required counties to implement policies and procedures related to expeditiously locating children and youth missing from care as well as requiring all child welfare and probation departments to identify, document, and determine appropriate services when serving youth who have been identified as victims of commercial sexual exploitation or are at risk for being victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

The CDSS provided initial instructions to counties regarding the requirements for preventing child sex trafficking in [ACL No. 16-08](#), statewide policies and procedures to prevent child sex trafficking in [ACL No. 16-85](#), and initial instructions regarding the protocol for youth who leave care or are missing in [ACL No. 16-15](#).

Additionally, [ACIN No. I-14-19](#) highlights best practices for serving youth who have experienced exploitation, such as guidance on reporting procedures, engagement for youth during and post leaving care, prevention guidance, and safety planning for future incidents of leaving care. All county child welfare and probation agencies receive an annual allocation to perform these federally required activities.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR OPT-IN COUNTIES**

The CSEC Program provides funding to participating counties to support training, prevention activities, intervention services, and the utilization of a multidisciplinary approach while serving children and youth who are, or at risk of becoming, commercially sexually exploited. Counties may opt-in on an annual basis to receive state funding for the CSEC program pursuant to [WIC sections 16524.6 - 16524.11](#). To participate, the counties are required to develop an Interagency Protocol as described in [WIC section 16524.8](#). Counties are encouraged to involve and include Tribes in the development and implementation of their Interagency Protocols. To access this funding, counties participating in the state CSEC program for FY 2023-24 are also required to participate in two calls annually with the Child Trafficking Program Support Unit to discuss progress in Program implementation.

For all counties, the federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, [Public Law 113-183](#), includes additional requirements under the Title IV-E program for states to prevent and address child sex trafficking. California incorporated the requirements of [Public Law 113-183](#) into state law in [WIC section 16501.35](#) and [WIC section 16501.45](#), requiring all counties to perform these federally-required activities for children receiving child welfare services.

For information regarding federal requirements for preventing sex trafficking and statewide policies and procedures applicable to all counties, please see [ACL No. 16-85](#) and [CFL No. 16/17-73](#).

### **ALLOWABLE STATE PROGRAM EXPENDITURES AND FEDERAL ACTIVITIES**

To support flexible expenditure planning for annual allocations for the county opt-in CSEC program, the CDSS developed the “State CSEC Program Expenditures and Federally Required Title IV-E Preventing Sex Trafficking Activities” document. This document is attached to [ACL No. 21-142](#) and is meant to provide child welfare agencies and probation departments examples of allowable expenditures and activities for the associated funding source and program requirements.

### **FUNDING DISTRIBUTION FOR THE STATE COMERCIALY SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN PROGRAM [SENATE BILL 855 (CHAPTER 29, STATUTES OF 2014) – OPT-IN COUNTIES]**

In consultation with the CWDA, approximately \$15.7 million General Fund (GF) is distributed to County Welfare Departments (CWDs) that have opted to participate in the state CSEC Program which was established by [WIC section 16524.7](#).

For FY 2023-24 the following methodology will be used:

- Approximately \$16.2 million GF is preliminarily allocated based on each previously opt-in (hereinafter referred to as “continuing”) county’s percentage of the total statewide FY 2022-23 state CSEC allocation less adjustments for the Preventing and Addressing Child Trafficking (PACT) Project and minimum floor adjustments, as displayed in [CFL No. 22/23-07](#).
- From the preliminary calculation, a reduction of \$488,640 is distributed across all continuing counties for the implementation of county training, technical assistance, and cross-county coordination through the PACT Project based on each continuing county’s projected FY 2022-23 state CSEC allocation balance as of July 2023. Continuing counties with projected surplus balances contribute 4.77 percent of their preliminary allocation; continuing counties with projected deficit balances contribute 1.0 percent of their preliminary allocation.
- An adjustment is made to ensure counties receive no less than \$25,000 GF.

For additional information regarding the allocation methodology and claiming information, please reference the forthcoming FY 2023-24 CSEC Program GF allocation County Fiscal Letter.

**FUNDING DISTRIBUTION FOR THE FEDERAL PREVENTING SEX TRAFFICKING REQUIREMENTS [SENATE BILL 794 (CHAPTER 425, STATUTES OF 2015) – ALL COUNTIES]**

In consultation with the CWDA, \$678,800 GF is distributed to CWDs using the following methodology:

- Each county's percentage of the total statewide point-in-time number of children in foster care caseload, ages 10–20 years, as of January 1, 2023, taken from the California Child Welfare Indicators Project on the University of California, Berkeley Website.
- To ensure all counties implement the federally mandated activities, a minimum floor of \$2,500 GF is provided.

In consultation with the Chief Probation Officers of California, approximately \$1.0 million GF is distributed to County Probation Departments using the following methodology:

- Each county's percentage of the combined total statewide point-in-time number of children in foster care caseload, ages 10-20 years, as of January 1, 2023, taken from the California Child Welfare Indicators Project from the University of California, Berkeley website and candidacy caseload as reported by counties to the CDSS.
- To ensure all counties implement the federally mandated activities, a minimum floor of \$2,500 GF is provided.

If you have questions or need additional guidance regarding the information in this letter, contact the Child Trafficking Response Team within the Family Centered Safety and Support Bureau at (916) 651-6160 or [CSECPprogram@dss.ca.gov](mailto:CSECPprogram@dss.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By***

ANGIE SCHWARTZ  
Deputy Director  
Children and Family Services Division

cc: County Welfare Directors Association  
Chief Probation Officers of California  
All Federally Recognized Tribes